

The Flames of War

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Summary: 'The Flames of War' is set a few months after the events of 'The Force Awakens'. An old childhood friend of Rey proves to be trouble for the Resistance. Admiral Char and his fleet threaten to crush the Resistance and the New Republic with their ingenious military tactics. Ambition and friendship clash in this galactic conflict. Will Char choose love or glory and power?

1. Taking the initiative

'The Flames of War' is set a few months after the events of 'The Force Awakens'. An old childhood friend of Rey proves to be trouble for the Resistance. Admiral Char and his fleet threaten to crush the Resistance with their ingenious military tactics. Rey will appear in later chapters. This is also inspired by military science fiction, so military tactics and battles will be focused greatly in the story.

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><p>Star Wars

****The Flames of War****

****War! The First Order has been waging a deadly war against the New Republic and the Resistance for months. Many ferocious battles have been fought, leaving thousands of dead civilians and ruined cities behind them. ****

****A stalemate has been reached as neither side can gain the decisive advantage needed to defeat its enemy. With Kylo Ren and Rey both training under their respective Masters, both sides have to rely on their military leaders alone and not on Force users.****

****In a remote region of the Outer Rim a Star Destroyer is on a scouting mission, searching for any presence of the Resistance. Until**

now, it has only seen minor action but this is soon going to changeâ€|**

Chapter 1 â€" Taking the initiative

The thousands of bright stars and planets gleamed in the pitched black background of space. Suddenly, a menacing shadow overshadowed one of the smaller planets. It was the shadow of a Star Destroyer travelling in space. The sound of its engines was the only sound that could be heard in the silent and empty coldness of the Outer Rim.

Inside the Star Destroyer, in an office, a man was signing some papers on his desk. The man was wearing a grey officers' uniform, which consisted of a double-breasted tunic with a round collar and matching trousers, a pair of black boots, a belt and a command cap. The officer was twenty-one years old, with shaggy hair, brown eyes, fine, manly physique and handsome, well-proportioned features.

Char Bright, as was his name, had trained in the Officers Academy of the First Order. When he was a cadet, he was expecting to fight epic battles and face dangerous and challenging enemies. But he never expected that his most terrifying enemy would be bureaucracy: paperwork and signing of orders.

He had seen only minor action and so did not have much battle experience aside from simulations and reading books on military strategy. He had been assigned as "Supplies Officer", looking after food and fuel. That was an important office, but not a very exciting one. Not to mention all the paperwork he had to do.

'If only I had a chance to prove myself on the battlefield, I would show them what I am capable of.' That was his constant thought. Char was a very ambitious person, constantly seeking glory and recognition. But he still had neither of them.

As he was signing a document concerning the resupply of the ship with fuel, the door knocked.

"Who is it?", Char asked.

"Officer Max!", the man replied.

"Come in."

Max Kraen, a thin young officer with short blonde hair, blue eyes and a handsome face, walked into the office and saluted Char.

"What is it that you want, Max?"

"Sir, the Admiral wants to see you. He awaits you on his office."

Char remained silent for a moment, thinking as for what reason the Admiral would want him. "Do you know why he asks for me?"

"No, sir, but he seemed a bit nervous to me."

"Alright, I will be going right away."

Char signed two more papers before getting up from his chair and walking out of his office. He headed towards the Admiral's office. Admiral Maar was an experienced military officer who had seen lot of action. Although by himself not impressive, being short and somewhat fat, he had fought more battles than the vast majority of First Order officers. He was in his early sixties, and so much older than most other officers, but he more than made up with his long experience and daring tactics.

He had taken command of the 'Conqueror', as was the Star Destroyer's name, only two months ago. He usually commanded whole fleets of Star Destroyers but he was given this minor command due to the machinations of his political enemies. But, as the war between the First Order and the New Republic was getting more and more costly, Snoke had ordered General Hux to bring Maar back to the main fleet.

Char entered the Admiral's office and saluted him. "Sir, what can I do for you?"

Maar smiled, although Char could see that he was a bit nervous. "General Hux has requested that I am to be brought back to the main fleet. That means that you will have to be temporary Admiral of this Star Destroyer."

"Me?!". Char was totally surprised by this, in a good way of course. At last, he had his own independent command. A smile appeared on his face.

"I know that you are not much experienced, but for a short amount of time you will be in command here. Of course, this is only temporary and soon the central command shall send a more experienced officer to take command here."

Hearing this, Char could not help but feel disappointed. He immediately ceased smiling but he did not dare express his disappointment and tried his best to hide it.

"Your mission will be to scout the area for any presence of the Resistance.", Maar continued. "Do not engage in combat under any circumstances. Your forces are meagre and cannot hope to battle the Resistance. If you find anything, report it immediately to the headquarters. Do you understand, soldier?"

"Yes, sir!"

"Good." Maar sighed. "I cannot help but feel a bit nervous letting this Star Destroyer being commanded by a rookie like you, but I hope that you will not let me down."

"I will do my best not to disappoint you, sir! Rest assured that I will follow your instructions."

"I hope soâ€¦|.."

A few hours later, Maar left the Star Destroyer on his Tie Fighter and Char moved to the Bridge to assume command. From there, he could see the vast blackness of space and the thousands of gleaming stars. As he was gazing at them, Max asked him, "Sir, what are your orders?"

"Send out five Tie Fighters to scout the area. They will be able to scout far more territory and do it far faster than the 'Conqueror'."

"But—" Now it was Max who was feeling nervous. "Sir, sending Tie Fighters to scout can be risky. If they are spotted by the enemy, they will surely get shot down before transmitting us the enemy's location and this could give time to the enemy to prepare their defenses. On the other hand, while a Star Destroyer is slower, it cannot be shot down easily even if spotted by the enemy and thus can both transmit the enemy's location to the headquarters and defend itself until reinforcements arrive."

"In war, the one who is willing to take the more risks usually emerges victorious.", Char retorted. "The Tie Fighters are too small to be spotted by the enemy while a Star Destroyer cannot be possibly missed. So, if we are to maintain the element of surprise, sending out Tie Fighters is the best option."

Max sighed. He disapproved of taking risky decisions but since Char was now in command, he could not disobey his orders. "Send out five Tie Fighters for scouting!", he shouted.

"Yes, sir!", one of the officers replied and transmitted the order to the pilots. Although a bit surprised to hear this command, the pilots quickly rushed to the hangar, jumped into their Tie Fighters and soon launched from the hangar into space.

"The Tie Fighters should be sent each in a different direction and be spread out to cover more territory.", Char said.

Max, although hesitant, obeyed the command and gave the order. He then said, "Excuse me Admiral, but since you do not have much battle experience, would it not be better if you followed less risky tactics? Simulations and books are one thing, living enemy is totally another."

"When you don't take risks, you cannot make the difference. And I want to make the difference. Do you understand that, officer?"

Char had grown tired of Max and his 'whining' and so the tone of his voice was strict and stern. Max knew that angering your superior was never a good idea, so he just smiled and said, "I understand."

Suddenly, one of the officers shouted, "Sir, James has spotted an X-Wing class fighter. He awaits your orders!"

James was one of the pilots Char had sent out to scout. He was an experienced pilot, having fought in many dogfights and having shot down countless X-Wings. So Char was confident of his abilities.

"No X-Wing can go this deep into space on its own. There must be a Resistance base nearby.", Char said. "Officer, tell James to follow the X-Wing, but maintain a long distance so that he is not spotted. If he is spotted, there goes the element of surprise. So make sure to tell him not to get too close to the X-Wing."

The officer repeated Char's commands to James. While he was doing

that, a grinning Char turned to Max and said, "See, my tactics work."

James slowed down the speed of his Tie Fighter as soon as he got his orders and tried to maintain a distance to the X-Wing. If he was too fast, he would be spotted. If he was too slow, he would lose the enemy and then he could lose the only trail leading to the enemy base. So James was in a difficult spot, even for an experienced pilot like himself.

'I sure hope the enemy base is somewhere near for I do not believe I will be able to follow for much longer that X-Wing without getting spotted.', James thought.

James followed the X-Wing, only to see it approach a large asteroid and landing into an opening on its right side, where a hangar was constructed. This seemed to him like a major Resistance military base, but he could not tell much about its defenses for he feared that if he approached any further, he would be discovered by the enemy.

He transmitted this to the communications officer who informed Char. "Sir, James said that there is a Resistance base in an asteroid on coordinates 17:01 on AK-89 Region. It seems like a major military installation. Should we inform the headquarters?"

"No.", Char replied. He knew that if he told the headquarters about this, they would most likely send another commander along with other Star Destroyers to attack the base. This would be the easier way to take out the Resistance base, but it would strip him of a chance to gain military glory. If he could destroy this military base by himself, he would surely impress enough his superiors to persuade them to name him permanent Admiral of the Star Destroyer. "Tell James to maintain his distance from the base and not do anything to risk the operation. We will soon be attacking."

"What?!", Max shouted, not able to withhold his anger and frustration anymore. "This is a direct violation of Admiral Maar's orders! Not to say that our forces are meagre and any attack against such a well-fortified Resistance base is doomed to failure."

"I am in command now, not Maar. And as long as I am in command, you will follow my orders. Or I will have you court-marshalled for insubordination. Now, tell me, do you prefer to follow my orders or to be shot by me?"

Max struggled to maintain his composure, but he finally calmed down and gave up. Anyway, even if the attack was a disaster, it would be Char's fault, not his. He had done all he could to prevent this disastrous plan. "I understand, Admiral.", he said, resigning to his fate.

"Good.", Char replied. "Now, order the crew to prepare for combat and get the 'Conqueror' near James' position. But do not go near the base. Maintain a long distance to avoid being detected. We shall not attack immediately with the Star Destroyer."

"What strategy do you propose?"

"Well, the sensors of the Resistance and the New Republic are built

to spot Star Destroyers and Tie Fighters. They shall not be able to detect a small group of people in space suits sneaking into the base. We will be too small for them to detect us."

Max sighed. "So, if I understand correct, you and a few men in space suits are going to float in space, reach the asteroid by yourselves and sneak into the base?"

"Yes. The space suits will provide us oxygen for long enough to reach the base."

"But as the Star Destroyer will maintain some distance so as to not be spotted, you might not have enough time to reach the base and run out of oxygen."

"Well, that's a risk I am willing to take."

Max could not tell if Char was a madman or simply an idiot. At the very least, if he died before reaching the base, Max could cancel this whole crazy operation.

"When I sneak into the base, I shall deactivate the sensors and the defenses and then I will give you the signal to launch the attack. They will not know what hit them!", Char said, unable to hide his excitement for this operation. He could at last prove his worth. "Once we reach our destination, call James to the Bridge."

"Yes, sir."

The Star Destroyer sped forward into space, soon reaching James' position. James' Tie Fighter flew back to the Conqueror's hangar and James rushed to the Bridge.

"I'm here, sir!", James said as soon as he reached the Bridge and saluted Char.

"You are an experienced soldier, so I want you to come with me on a dangerous mission. Gather four more men, the best we have. We are going into space with space suits."

James grinned. "I know what your plan is, sir. It is going to be dangerous, but I love challenges."

"Good to hear that. Get the men and we shall meet in the airlock."

When James left the Bridge, Char turned to Max and said, "Remember, under no condition are you to attack before getting a signal from me. Although you are not an experienced officer, I am sure you can handle the task of attacking the base once I give you the signal, right?"

"Right". He tried to sound firm and confident, but even he himself doubted his ability to perform this task. But he had a duty and he would not prove himself inferior to the task at hand.

"Relax; I am sure you will do fine. Now, I've got to go!"

Char rushed to his room and equipped himself with a space suit. Most people rarely used space suits to float into space, as they could

provide oxygen for only a limited period of time and so it was quite risky. As soon as he wore that suit, he rushed to the airlock. There, James and four other men, all wearing space suits, waited for him.

"James, open the airlock!", Char ordered. "We are going into space."

James pressed a few buttons on the right side of the airlock and it opened. One after the other, the brave group of men floated into the black pitched wilderness of space.

"We must reach the asteroid as fast as possible or this will be our last military operation.", Char said.

The men tried to move forward as fast as possible, but the space suits were slow and the oxygen was being depleted. Agony and fear took hold of the men, but they knew that it was too late to back down. Just when the oxygen was going to be completely depleted, they reached the opening of the asteroid where the hangar was build. And to their astonishment, they saw four huge cannons guarding the hangar.

"Why are they not firing?!", James shouted. "I am sure that they should have spotted us by now."

Char laughed. "If they were manned by soldiers, they would have already spotted us. But those are automated cannons and their sensors, as well as the perimeter sensors of the base, cannot spot small objects. They are built to locate Star Destroyers and Tie Fighters, not a few men in space suits. I guess their engineer never thought that someone would be crazy enough to approach an enemy base in a space suit without any ship backing him up."

So, the group made its way into the hangar. As soon as they touched the ground, they quickly run and hid behind an X-Wing. They saw six Resistance soldiers walking in the hangar and patrolling the area.

'That's fitting.' Char thought, smiling. 'We wanted six Resistance uniforms and now we got them.'

"Make a sound.", Char ordered and James hit the X-Wing with his fist.

"What's this?", one of the Resistance soldiers wondered.

"It came from behind that X-Wing.", another said. "Let's go check it."

As soon as they approached, Char and his men grabbed them and slit their throats with a laser knife. They then removed their space suits and wore the uniforms of the dead Resistance fighters. Now, dressed as Resistance fighters, they could make their way into the base.

As they were walking, they saw that tens of fighters were in the base. They were trying to avoid talking with anyone, in fear of being recognized. If they were discovered, it would mean certain death for them for it would be impossible to escape from a military base with so many troops.

'I wonder where the main computer isâ€|', Char thought. 'If I can find it, I will be able to shut down the sensors and the cannons.'

Suddenly, a Resistance soldier shouted to Char, "Hey you! Wait a moment!"

Char's heart skipped a beat. 'Damn, we have been discovered!'

"What is it?", he said with a smile, trying to hide his fear.

"I want you to go to the main computer and upload this program.", the man said and gave to Char a disk. "It will enhance the sensors. The officer asked me to do it, but I have a date with Shelysa and â€| you knowâ€| anyway, it's a pretty simple task so it is not like you will have to do much. I would really appreciate if you could help me."

Char tried very hard to keep himself from laughing. 'Luck is on my side, it seems.'

"Very well, I'll do it but where the main computer is?"

"It's third room on the left on corridor A7. Here is the card to open the door."

The man gave the card to Char and left with a smile in his face.

"I will go on my own to the computer's room.", Char whispered to James. "You and your men just hang around and try not to look suspicious."

"I'll do my best, sir."

Char walked slowly to corridor A7 and got to the third room. He used the card to open the door and saw that there were two guards armed with rifles in the room.

"The commander has requested that you go meet him. Don't know what he wants, but it seems urgent.", Char said. "I will remain here and guard the computer for you."

The guards were surprised to hear this command but this guy had a card, which only the commander had, and so he could not be joking.

"Very well.", one of them said. "We will be going. Make sure no one gets in."

"Don't worry. Everything will be under control."

As soon as the guards left, Char inserted a computer spike into the computer. This allowed him to hack the computer and deactivate the sensors and the cannons. "All too easy!", he commented. He then activated a comlink and said, "Do you read me?"

The communications officer of the 'Conqueror' quickly replied, "Yes, sir!"

"Good. The mission was a success. Order Max to attack now!"

The officer quickly relayed Char's message to Max.

"Impossible!", he shouted, astonished by the success. "I cannot believe it! Set course for the asteroid. Inform all pilots to prepare for battle."

The Star Destroyer soon reached the asteroid base. Seeing the base before him, Max shouted, "Pilots, go on the Tie Fighters and launch an attack!"

Tens of Tie Fighters launched from the hangar and flew right into the hangar, firing with their laser beams at the X-Wings, decimating the entire Resistance air force even before it was able to take off. So, even though the X-Wings outnumbered by far the Tie Fighters, they were not able to pose a threat to them. The Resistance soldiers patrolling the hangar were also killed by the tens, as they did not had even a slight chance against the superior firepower of the Tie Fighters.

"Send ground troops!", Max ordered and from the Star Destroyer troop carrier ships launched and landed onto the enemy hangar. Stormtroopers moved out of the ships and rushed forward, shooting at anything that moved. Although the Resistance soldiers were far superior in numbers, they were surprised by the attack and without any preparation at all while the Stormtroopers were battle ready and had the element of surprise. So, despite intense fighting, the Stormtroopers began pushing back the enemy soldiers and taking over one corridor after the other

Char, James and the other men rushed to the hangar, shouting "We are First Order, don't shoot."

Despite this, some Stormtroopers began firing at them but thankfully they were able to dodge the fire and an officer who recognized them ordered the Stormtroopers to stop firing at them.

Char let out a breath of relief. "That was close!", he commented. He then said to the officer, "I will be going back to the 'Conqueror'. Prepare a Tie Fighter for me."

"Yes, sir!"

The officer soon found a Tie Fighter stationed in the hangar and Char jumped into its cockpit and flew to the Star Destroyer. He quickly rushed to his room, as soon as he got to the ship, and changed back to his officers' uniform. He then walked to the Bridge and asked Max, "How are things going?"

"Excellent, sir! Our troops have made much progress and have captured almost the entirety of the base. Only a few pockets of resistance remain."

"Tell them to place explosives into the base and get out of there."

Max was confused. "Sir, aren't we going to keep the base?"

"No, we don't have enough troops to occupy it and I cannot waste

troops in occupying a stupid rock. Just explode the base so it cannot be used by the Resistance anymore. That was our mission in the first place, to destroy the base."

Max transmitted the order to the troops and the Stormtroopers placed explosives all over the station. They then rushed to the hangar and began evacuating the base. As soon as the last soldier fled the base, the bombs exploded and the entire asteroid shook. Fire engulfed everything and burned alive the remaining Resistance soldiers. When the fire reached the weapon caches and armory of the Resistance, a second even stronger explosion rocked the place.

"Magnificent!", Char said, looking at the amazing spectacle of fire engulfing the base. "Great fireworks, worthy of our triumph."

"I have to be honest, sir.", Max said. "At first, I believed that you were a madman but now I am totally persuaded that you are an excellent commander. I put my faith in you, Admiral!"

Char smiled. Maybe the greatest achievement of this day was not his victory over the Resistance but the fact that he had gained the trust of his officers and the adoration of his men. That was something much harder to achieve. He ordered Max to report the news to General Hux while he went to his room. He lied on his bed, closed his eyes and soon fell asleep. It was a tiring day for him.

Two hours later, Max knocked the door. "Sir, you are wanted by General Hux. Come to the Communications Room."

Hearing this, Char quickly got up and rushed to the Communications Room, hoping to hear good news. As soon as he entered the room, he activated the hologram projector and Hux appeared before him.

"Admiral Char, Officer Max informed me of the situation. You were only a temporary commander and with strict orders not to engage in combat. But you disobeyed that command, right?"

Char was taken a bit aback by the strict tone of Hux, but confidently replied, "Yes. When I located the enemy base, I knew that it was critical to take the initiative and take them out as soon as possible. I could not wait for further orders or reinforcements, lest the opportunity to destroy the enemy slipped from my hands."

"Good. I like military commanders with independent thought and bold strategies who can achieve victories for the First Order. You shall be permanent Admiral of the 'Conqueror' and the scouting mission is to be turned into a cleansing of the area from Resistance bases mission. Bring me more military victories and you shall get rapid promotions."

"Yes, sir!", Char said and saluted Hux. "I will not fail you!"

Char now had the chance to further prove himself. He was a very ambitious person and wanted to get to the top of the First Order's military hierarchy. And he was going to achieve this goal, no matter what the cost or what tactics he needed to use to achieve it. No one was going to get in his way, and certainly not the Resistance.

2. Flanking maneuvers

_Chapter 2 " Flanking maneuvers _

A Star Destroyer, the 'Conqueror', floated through the emptiness of space. A dozen pod-like objects descended from the docking bay and blasted off in separate directions. One of the pods found its way to a green planet; a red flame streaked through the sky before the intruder slammed into the planet's surface, coughing up smoke and debris. As the dust cleared, a robot emerged from the crater. The robot was actually a First Order probe droid. It immediately began its search for the Resistance.

It took it only a few hours to find out the existence of a fortified Resistance military base in this jungle world of Anthora, as was the planet's name. The military base was heavily fortified, with a series of trenches surrounding the base and huge laser cannons all over the base, as well as tens of anti-aircraft guns. The combination of trenches and heavy artillery would be enough to halt the advance of most armies. The droid could see thousands of soldiers in the base's perimeter, all equipped with rifles. As it was recording this scene and sending the images to the 'Conqueror', it was suddenly shot down by a Resistance soldier who spotted it.

On the 'Conqueror', Char and Max were waiting for the results of probe droids' search. The communications officer, Michael, announced to Char, "Sir, the probe droid in the jungle world of Anthora has been shot down, but it managed to send us images of a strong fortified position of the Resistance. There seem to be an awful lot of soldiers in that base. I am sure that they outnumber us."

"So much for surprise!", Char murmured.

"Shall we bomb it to oblivion?", Max asked.

"No!", Michael intervened. "From the images the probe droid sent, it seems that the base has a quite a lot of anti-aircraft guns. It will be a slaughter if we send Tie Fighters to bomb them."

"Indeed.", Char said. "We will need to launch a ground assault, if we are going to defeat them. We are going to land on some distance from the base and encamp there. I need to know more about the terrain and the location of the enemy base before launching an attack. We should not be hasty, for from the images it seems that we are outnumbered."

"Prepare for landing!", Max shouted and the Star Destroyer entered Anthora's atmosphere. As the jungle was too thick for the ship to land, Max asked Char for further instructions.

"Have the Star Destroyer to fly as low as possible and tell the troops to use parachutes to land onto the jungle.", Char ordered.

Indeed, the Stormtroopers equipped themselves with parachutes and jumped from the Star Destroyer onto the jungle. Boxes containing supplies and weapons were also thrown on the jungle with parachutes.

'I just hope that the enemy will not launch an assault now that our

troops are disorganized due to the landing.', Char thought as he was jumping too from the Star Destroyer onto the ground.

Thankfully, for Char, the enemy commander, Nathalian, had no intention to launch an attack on the invading First Order troops. A tall, thin man in his fifties with a brown beard and a stern look, Nathalian was the commander of the Resistance military forces in Anthora. He was now in his office and talking to General Leia Organa through a hologram projector.

"General, the First Order has landed military forces here.", he said.

"And what is your strategy, Nathalian?", Leia asked. "Do they outnumber you? You should try to delay them until reinforcements arrive, but if the odds are against you and the situation is too critical, I give your permission to retreat."

Nathalian laughed. "General, I do not need any reinforcements at all. Not only do I outnumber them by two to one, but my defenses are exceptionally strong. I have dug trenches and the cannons and anti-aircraft guns shall offer protection to our troops. It will be a slaughter for the First Order. No one can take over this base with so few soldiers. I shall avenge our fallen comrades and score a great victory against the First Order."

"I hope you are right. In any case, never underestimate the enemy."

Meanwhile, the Stormtroopers had created a temporary defensive perimeter around the spot where they had landed and placed machine guns all over that perimeter to protect themselves from a possible Resistance attack. Inside the perimeter, the troops had set tents and were storing the boxes containing supplies.

Inside a tent, Char, Max and a few other officers were discussing on what they should do to capture the Resistance base. Char knew that if he could defeat the Resistance on Anthora, he would be promoted and more Star Destroyers and troops would be assigned to him. But his forces were meagre and he had only a few tanks under his command.

"We need to send probe droids to further scan the terrain and report to us the topography of the area.", Char said. "We need to see if there is any weakness which we can exploit, so as to avoid launching a direct assault, which would surely be a disaster."

"I agree with you, sir.", Max said. "Although I have a feeling this is a battle we cannot win."

He then turned to an officer and shouted, "Officer, sent the probe droids to scan the area."

Indeed, tens of probe droids were sent in different directions and were able to scout a huge amount of area. A few hours later, when the sun was setting, Michael reported to Char and Max the results of the scouting.

"Sir, it seems that the trees near the military base have been mostly cut down by the Resistance soldiers, probably during the construction

of the base. So the terrain will not be much of a problem, but the defenses seem to be too strong. There are trenches surrounding the base and too many cannons. There seems to be only one weak spot: on the far right side of the base, there is a marsh. Not many troops are stationed there, but it seems unpassable. Our tanks and vehicles would most likely be stuck on the muddy water."

Char thought for a moment and then finally ordered, "Tomorrow morning, send the majority of the troops in a direct assault on the base. The tanks and the elite troops will follow me through the marsh. We will strike there, where there are few soldiers guarding the place, and outflank the enemy. A combined attack from both sides and the surprise caused by the breaching of their defenses should be enough to cause a collapse of the enemy defense."

"But, sir, it is too risky!", Max protested. "If the tanks do not make it through the marsh and get stuck, our soldiers attacking on the front will be slaughtered. Not to say that according to most textbooks, in order to defeat an entrenched enemy you must have the numerical advantage while we are outnumbered by the enemy."

"Relax. Remember how you thought it was impossible to take over the asteroid base and yet we did it? The same thing will happen here too."

Max reluctantly nodded in agreement and gave the orders to the men. They were to rest for a few hours and then they would launch their attack as soon as the sun appeared on the sky of Anthora. Few were able to sleep. Most of them were too nervous about the upcoming battle. They knew that the odds were against them and that the enemy defenses were too strong, but they had faith that their commander would grant another victory. Char was their only hope. Char was even more nervous. A defeat would most likely put an end to his career.

On the morning of the next day, the troops ate breakfast as fast as they could, equipped themselves with blasters and began marching towards the enemy base. They had minimal artillery and the cannons were reserved for the surprise attack of Char on the western side of the base. Neither did they have aerial support, as Char did not want to waste Tie Fighters on an attack on the base, knowing that the anti-aircraft guns of the Resistance would decimate his air force.

The troops marched forward in perfect order, one line walking after the other, and walking slowly. Soon, they saw before them the trenches of the enemy base and the laser cannons. A "Fire!" shout was heard from the Resistance base and the laser cannons began firing at the Stormtroopers.

"Fall down!", Max, who was leading the attack on the front, ordered. The Stormtroopers fell on the ground, dodging the enemy fire. Still, some of them were killed.

"Stand up and run!", Max shouted and the soldiers charged forward towards the trenches. The Resistance soldiers in the trenches fired with their rifles and some of them with machine guns, decimating the Stormtroopers. The laser cannons fired again and again at the First Order troops, blowing them by the tens. Bodies were dismembered; soldiers were losing arms, legs. Severed bodies lied all over the

place. The shouting and the cries of the injured echoed all over the battlefield.

But some of the Stormtroopers managed to make it to the trenches. They jumped into them and fired at the Resistance soldiers dug in. They returned the fire and a fierce battle ensued. Both Stormtroopers and Resistance fighters were beginning to use laser knives, vibroblades and even rocks in their attempt to kill the enemy. Swords were stabbing enemy soldiers, rocks were used to crush the heads of the enemies. Blood flowed in the trenches and dead bodies piled up.

Meanwhile, Char was leading the tanks and elite troops to the marsh on the far right side of the base. 'If this does not work', Char thought, 'I am doomed. Hux will never forgive the loss of so many troops if I do not deliver him a victory. This battle will either mark my rise to power or my fall and complete failure.'

The tanks and troops under Char were moving slowly towards the marsh, not wanting to attract the attention of the enemy. As they were moving forward, Char spoke to Max through his comlink: "Max, do you read me?"

"Yes!", Max replied, although he struggled to hear Char because of all the explosions and battle cries echoing all over the battlefield.

"How are things going?"

"We have taken terrible losses. If the enemy does not soon collapse, we will be forced to retreat. But at least we too have caused them many casualties."

"Good. This will force them to bring more troops in the front and further weaken their defenses on the right side. I will be soon outflanking them."

While Char was leading his men, Nathalian was reporting to Leia.

"General, I am pleased to inform you that the battle has been going to our favor.", Nathalian said, grinning. "The enemy attacks are being repelled and they have taken great casualties. I told you that my defenses would be strong enough for any army."

"I am glad to hear that. Nevertheless, you must remain vigilant. I, somehow, have a bad feeling about this."

"You worry too much General. The enemy army will be totally smashed by the end of the day."

While Nathalian was speaking, in the marsh the tanks attempted to cross the muddy water and drive into the enemy base, but some of them got stuck. Meanwhile, mosquitos, snakes and the lush vegetation slowed the progress of the ground troops.

"Dammit!", Char shouted. "Just what I needed! Troops push the tanks! Use all your strength!"

The troops began pushing the tanks and were trying to unstuck them.

They were sweating and exhausted. The fact that they were wearing helmet and heavy uniform in the hot tropical terrain of Anthora certainly did not help. They were being pushed to the limit of their physical abilities and were on the verge of collapse. But they knew that if they failed, they would all be killed. So they put all their strength in the work at hand and managed to unstuck the tanks from the mud.

"Good!", Char commented. "Now, launch the attack!"

The few Resistance soldiers near the marsh were terrified to see tanks and elite Stormtroopers charging at them. Their faces turned pale white and they ran away in fear. The strike force continued its march, soon reaching the first real defensive line of the enemy. Although there were trenches dug in the ground, they were undermanned as the majority of men had been sent to reinforce the frontal defenses, and the few laser cannons were no much for the heavy First Order tanks. A squad of elite Stormtroopers cleansed the trenches from enemies by using grenades and flamethrowers, incinerating tens of enemy soldiers.

Char could not help but smile at the sight of the enemy running away. "My plan is a success!" he shouted and began laughing. The whole western front collapsed and the tanks and Stormtroopers were able to outflank the enemy units defending the front of the base and attack them with fury. Their wish to avenge their fallen comrades empowered the fighting abilities of the First Order troops while the Resistance soldiers were surprised and terrified by the sudden appearance of this new enemy force behind their backs, when they had already taken so many casualties and were on the verge of collapse, and they soon retreated. The retreat was disorganized and turned into a full scale rout. Every man was for himself and the entire defense collapsed.

Nathalian was in his office, attempting to report the new situation to Leia, when Stormtroopers broke into the base itself. They fired with their blasters at anything moving and their grenades caused huge explosions which shook the base. Fire engulfed everything and burned enemy officers and troops. A group of Stormtroopers headed straight to Nathalian's office. They barged in, blowing up the door, and shot the commander upon sight. Char walked into the office, accompanied by a few guards, and saw the hologram of a terrified Leia.

"Madam, I am glad to meet you.", he said, smiling. "I am Char Bright, Admiral of the 'Conqueror'. I am pleased to inform you that commander Nathalian has been killed and now this base is under the control of the First Order. Next time, do not place your troops under the command of such an arrogant and incompetent officer."

He then turned off the hologram projector and ordered an officer, "Order the elite troops to hunt down and kill as many of the retreating enemies. The more enemies they kill, the better."

At that moment, an excited Max rushed into the room. "You've made it!", Max shouted. "That was awesome. We actually managed to defeat a far larger force entrenched in a strongly fortified position."

"See, we can achieve anything with the right tactics."

Char remained silent for a moment and then continued, "Max, go inform

General Hux of the victory here. Make sure to tell him about how strong the enemy defenses were and how we were outnumbered."

"I will go right away, sir!"

With this victory, he would surely be further promoted. 'If I can achieve such victories with only so few men', Char thought, 'who knows what I can do with an entire fleet under my command? This battle may only be the beginning of my career. I am sure that I shall rise even higher and no one will be able to stop me from climbing to the top of the ranks. I will show them the difference that a genius can make on the battlefield.'

When he was a young boy in Jakku, no one could have predicted that he would become a victorious military commander. Although he was not poor, he wasn't rich either. He was excellent in mathematics when he was young, but no one could predict such a meteoric rise. When he left as a young man Jakku for the Officers Academy of the First Order, no one believed he would be admitted. But he proved them all wrong. And now he once again proved wrong those fellow officers who thought that Char was going to remain Admiral of a minor force.

Max reported to Hux the military victory and he requested Char to communicate with him. Char went to the communications room of the 'Conqueror' and the hologram of Hux appeared before him. Hux, smiling, said, "Your military victory in Anthora is quite impressive. You managed to cleanse the area from the Resistance, despite having inferior forces and having to face an entrenched enemy force. That was an impressive military feat. You actually managed to pull off a daring military maneuver and showed that you have both innovative military thought and that you are ready to take risks in order to bring down the enemy. I will assign you two more Star Destroyers, the 'Warrior' and the 'Prince'. Also, I shall give you more funds and increase the wages of the troops under your command. Your next mission will be to launch an offensive on the Hoth system, where there is large military presence of the New Republic."

"Thank you, sir! I shall not disappoint you!"

"I hope so. The Republic forces are more numerous and far better equipped than their Resistance counterparts and have better weapons and artillery. You will need all your military skill to defeat them. It will not be an easy campaign to win."

Char got what he wanted: more troops, further recognition and glory. If he continued scoring victories for the First Order, he would soon become famous all over the galaxy. The thought of him becoming as well known as Kylo Ren and General Hux instantly brought a smile to his face.

* * *

><p>On Yavin IV, inside an ancient pyramid made of stone, Leia Organa was directing the forces of the Resistance. Although the New Republic was now openly at war with the First Order, the Resistance remained a separate force, even if it cooperated closely with Republic forces. Leia thought that it was fitting that the new headquarters of the Resistance were on the same place where the headquarters of the Rebel Alliance once were. Tens of officers were sitting on desks and typing on their computers, communicating with military forces across the

galaxy and searching for information asked by Leia.<p>

"General, we have the info you asked for.", one of the officers said.

"Which one?", Leia nonchalantly asked. She had been directing so many forces and asking for so much info that even she herself did not remember all of her orders. Being General of the Resistance was a tedious job that demanded all of her attention.

"On that First Order Admiral named Char Bright. The one who conquered Anthora."

"Tell me what you found out about him."

"It seems that he comes from Jakku. He enrolled to the Officers Academy of the First Order and was the best student in his class. He was appointed as 'Supplies Officer' for the Star Destroyer 'Conqueror' before becoming its Admiral. He has defeated twice our forces, despite having inferior to us forces."

"Jakku?", Leia repeated. "That's where Rey comes fromâ€¦ Is it possible that she knows this man?"

But she quickly dismissed the idea. Just because they came from the same planet, it does not mean that they would know each other. But the officer found Leia's suggestion to be a good idea.

"Why don't you ask her when she returns from her training with Luke? She might know something."

"I do not see a point in this, but I will do. There is no harm in asking about this, I suppose."

"Should we place a bounty on Char's head, General?"

Leia smiled. "No. He seems to be an able officer, but I think we are overestimating him. He commands only a minor force and has defeated only a few local garrisons. He has not proved himself in a large scale military campaign yet."

* * *

><p>Char was in his room, lying on his bed after another tiring day, and thinking about his next military campaign. He was excited about it, and so were his troops. Although the casualties were great in the battle of Anthora, the fact that they had won against superior enemy forces and the increase in their wages made the men adore Char and unable to wait for their next victory.<p>

'Who would have thought back in Jakku that I would be so successful?', he thought. This reminded him of his home planet; his parents and his friends. Among his childhood friends, the one with whom he spent most of the time was a young girl called Rey. She was three years younger than him and the way they met was completely accidental.

She was cleaning items brought by the scavengers to Unkar Plutt for a living at that time, as she was not old enough to scavenge by herself. Char had decided for once to accompany his parents to the

market. They wanted to buy items from there, as doing so was cheaper than buying new ones. Rey was running, wanting to bring some more items she had cleaned to Unkar Plutt, while Char was looking around, trying to find if there was anything cool among the items on sale. As neither of them was particularly careful at that moment, they collided. Char quickly apologized to Rey and helped her get up. No one had been polite and kind to her before while Char was bored and wanted a friend to talk to, as he still did not have many friends due to his shy character. So the two young children soon became friends.

They played together all the time and Char was even helping Rey in her work. The two of them especially liked going to the sand dunes, lying on the sand and watching the night sky with the thousands of bright stars gleaming and the space ships taking off from the spaceport. Rey was telling Char the stories she had heard from pilots coming to the spaceport and both dreamed of leaving this planet and exploring the vast galaxy, of which they had heard so much.

However, Char had not seen for years Rey. When he became eighteen years old, he left Jakku for the Officers Academy of the First Order. Before leaving Jakku, Rey had given to him a talisman to symbolize their friendship. This talisman was actually one of the few items left to Rey from her parents. So close was their friendship. Char had kept it all those years, to remind himself of Rey and their friendship.

But Char quickly brushed aside those thoughts and began thinking of the glory he would gain if he defeated the Republican forces in Hoth. He had been told by Max that another First Order fleet had attempted to take over Hoth five months ago, but it failed miserably despite being numerically superior to the Republican forces. So, if he could achieve victory in Hoth, it would surely enhance his prestige. No fortress was going to stop his rise to power.

3. Campaign in Hoth

Thanks for all the reviews.

Chapter 3 – Campaign in Hoth

The sea seemed endless from the island. The waves splashed on the island's rocky and steep coast. Rey loved the sound of the sea. It helped her calm down. And being calm was a very important trait for a Jedi. Patience, peace of mind and calmness were necessary for someone hoping to become a Jedi. For the Jedi were not mere warriors. They were members of a spiritual order hoping to preserve peace in the galaxy. In fact, the first Jedi were monks.

Rey had been practicing for months under Luke. Luke was like a father to her. He was telling her stories about the old Jedi or his own adventures when he was still a young man fighting the Empire. He showed care for her, something which her real parents had not been able to do. Luke cared for Rey as if she was his daughter. He had been alone all those years on this island. His only companions before Rey were the birds in the sky, flying and chirping charming melodies.

As the sun was setting, painting the seemingly endless sea with a

rosy like color, Rey was trying to dodge the laser fired by the small training remote droid of Luke and to reach her lightsaber. She fell on the ground, dodging the enemy fire, and crawled to the stone upon which Luke had placed her lightsaber. She quickly got up, picked it and dodged another enemy shot. She then activated her lightsaber and used it to deflect the enemy fire.

Luke smiled. "Excellent!", he said. "You have improved much in dodging and deflecting enemy fire. Although this skill is simple, it is essential for your survival. Remember, most enemies you will face are equipped with blasters and rifles, not lightsabers."

A smile appeared on her face.

"Thanks Master. I will do my best to improve even more."

"I am sure you will, but I believe you've trained enough for today. Let's rest a bit."

* * *

><p>Rey followed Luke to the top of island's hill. They sat on the grass and looked at the endless expanse of water. No matter how many times she had watched it, the scenery always looked amazing. She gazed at the stars in the sky, which were being reflected on the water of the sea. From the top of this hill, the night sky always looked beautiful.<p>

"I love watching the night sky.", Rey commented.

"Indeed. It eases your mind and makes you calm.", Luke replied.

"I used to do the same thing back in Jakku. Me and Char watched the stars together and thought about the vastness of the galaxy."
"

"Char?". Although Luke had heard about Finn, this was the first time he heard from Rey about this Char.

"A childhood friend of mine from Jakku. It's been almost six years since I last saw him."

Rey could not help but smile remembering her time with him. "We were very good friends. We were always together, talking and playing and staring at the night sky. He was even helping me with some of my work."

"Where is he now?", Luke asked.

Rey sighed. "I don't know. He left Jakku to go study on an academy. He did not tell what exactly he was going to study but he promised to come back to Jakku when could. I hope that he is healthy and well so I can see him again one day. "

"I am sure he is fine and that you will meet him again."

"I hope so. He was a caring person, friendly, polite, always standing up to injustice and helping those in need. I wonder what he is doing right now."

* * *

><p>Next morning, as soon as the bright sun appeared on the clear blue sky, Rey began her training, swinging her lightsaber left and right, amidst the tens of red and blue flowers whose fragrant scent was intoxicating. Her moves were fast but precise and strong. Her swift moves and the power behind each of her movements made her a difficult opponent to defeat. Her lightsaber skills had improved a lot since her duel with Kylo Ren.<p>

Luke was sitting upon a large stone and watching carefully her movements, instructing her on how to move when needed and correcting her when she made mistakes. He had to admit that Rey had made huge progress and that soon she could return back to the Resistance. He was still indecisive as to if he was going to return with her or stay in the island.

"Excellent swordplay!", Luke said. "But let's see how good you are with the Force."

With a move of his hand, tens of stones lying on the ground were elevated and thrown at Rey. Rey used the force to push them back.

"Great. Your force push has certainly improved.", Luke said. "But this is not over yet."

The training remote droid appeared and Luke continued, "You will have to both dodge its laser blaster and destroy it using the Force."

The droid fired at Rey, but she was able to dodge the fire. She then used the force to lift up a stone and threw it at the droid. The stone hit the droid, blowing it up.

"Good. You are more than ready to return to Leia and help her fight the First Order."

"What about you, Master? Won't you be coming with me?"

"Iâ€|.."

Rey sighed. "I do not want to leave you here all alone on this island. You should return. You will be of great help, not only to the Resistance but also to me. I may not be able to defeat Kylo Ren on my own."

"This is a challenge you will have to face on your own.", Luke replied. But seeing tears on Rey's face, he could not but change his mind. "Alright, I'll be coming with you."

"Great!", Rey said with a broad smile on her face.

"But I will only be advising you, do not expect me to fight for you. You cannot always rely on me and I want you to be able to face the dark side on your own, because I am too old now and one day I will die. So, I want to make sure that you have no need of me and you can defend freedom in the galaxy without me. That way, I will die in peace when my time in this world is over."

* * *

><p>The Republic forces on Hoth were under the command of General Andrew, an experienced military commander who had fought in many conflicts, including the Galactic Civil War on the side of the Rebels and against the Empire. A short mustached man in his late sixties, he was not one to be underestimated. He was in his office, discussing with Finn on the strategy that they would follow. Finn had been sent to Hoth by Leia, along with some Resistance soldiers, to assist the forces of the Republic on Hoth.<p>

"So, Finn, I do not believe that the First Order will be able to take hold of this military base.", Andrew said. "I certainly do not underestimate them, but the defenses are too strong and we have too many men. As long as we are not lured into attacking them and fighting the battle on their terms, victory will be ours. All we have to do is to hold on until the enemy is forced to retreat due to high casualties. Admiral Ozel will be supplying us, so we can fortify here for as long as we want."

"Rest assured General that I and all of my fellow soldiers will do our best to repel the attacks of the First Order. We shall not fail you. All of us are ready to give up our lives in defense of this base. The enemy will be pushed back for sure."

"Your commitment to our cause is commendable. But I do not believe that we will have much of a trouble. The Admiral of the First Order forces attacking us is some kid who has only fought two battles. I'll show him what a veteran like me can do with the right resources."

* * *

><p>On the bridge of the 'Conqueror', Char was discussing with Max on how to defeat the enemy.<p>

"According to Michael, the fortifications of the Republic base in Hoth are extremely strong.", Max said. "The ones in Anthora seem like a playground compared to them. They have thousands of laser cannons, anti-aircraft guns and other heavy artillery. They also have tens of thousands of soldiers, all experienced in combat. Not only are we outnumbered and outgunned, but the General in command of the fortress is an experienced and cautious commander with many victories on his record."

Char sighed. "It also seems that an outflanking maneuver like the one we pulled in Anthora is impossible to repeat. All of Hoth is a huge icy plain. A direct assault is also out of the question. There is only one way we can defeat them."

"What way?"

Char smiled. "An army marches on its stomach."

"So, what you are proposing is-"

"That if we cut their supply lines, they will eventually either starve to death or be forced to come out and fight us on our own terms."

Max laughed. "It seems that you always have a solution for every problem that arises."

"Once we land, order the Stormtroopers to dig a trench around the enemy fortress. We shall also place there all of our artillery and use the tanks too as artillery, since we do not have enough cannons. We will also be placing anti-aircraft guns on strategic positions to shoot down enemy vessels attempting to supply the Republic base."

The three Star Destroyers under Char's command descended onto Hoth and landed on some distance from the Republic's base. As soon as the Stormtroopers landed on the planet, they began marching towards the enemy base. When they reached the outskirts of the enemy fortress, they placed the heavy artillery, anti-aircraft guns and machine guns to protect their construction project from any enemy attacks and began digging a trench which would encircle the enemy base.

Despite their uniform, the Stormtroopers were feeling the coldness of Hoth. They felt as if they would be frozen at any moment and were shaking; so cold was the weather. It did not help the fact that the air was windy. In order to dig a trench around such a huge perimeter, they had to work for whole weeks. All day long, they would have to work under heavy enemy fire coming from the enemy artillery.

* * *

><p>Finn was in General Andrew's office. Andrew looked worried and Finn could see sweat on his forehead. Andrew was indeed nervous and worried. He knew that if the Stormtroopers completed the construction, no supplies could be brought to them. So, sooner or later, he would have to either surrender or attack the enemy, thus abandoning the advantage offered by the strong fortifications of the base.<p>

"What can I do for you, General?", Finn asked.

"The enemies have been building their trench with astounding speed. If their project is completed, we would be cut off and the Republic fleet will not be able to resupply us. So I want you and your men to make a daring raid and set on fire their construction sites. This should delay them."

"I'll do my best, sir."

* * *

><p>The sun had set and day had given its place to the darkness of night. The Stormtroopers on Sector D of the construction project were tired after another day of hard labor and were about to cease their work and rest for a few hours. They had been digging under terrible weather conditions for hours but they had almost completed the trench on this site. Next morning, they would finish the construction and move to another Sector. As they were about to rest, suddenly, they came under intense fire.<p>

Under the cover of darkness a small team of Resistance soldiers led by Finn had launched a daring raid at Sector D. Their goal: kill the workers and set explosives to disrupt the construction project. The Stormtroopers threw away their shovels, pulled their blasters and began firing back but the element of surprise meant that many of them were killed by the Resistance soldiers within the few first minutes.

The redness of blood mixed with the whiteness of snow.

The Stormtroopers retreated and fell back to the incomplete trench, taking cover and preparing for the upcoming Resistance attack. The commander of the unit, lieutenant Quattro, contacted the HQ with his comlink and shouted, "We need reinforcements right away in Sector D. We are under attack! I repeat; we are under attack! We cannot hold on our own much longer. The trench is incomplete and as such offers only partial protection. We need reinforce- Aaa!"

A blaster fire penetrated the forehead of Quattro, instantly killing him. The Resistance soldiers had jumped onto the trench and were firing with rapid fire at the Stormtroopers.

* * *

><p>Char was in his tent with Max. They were discussing the progress of the construction project. They hoped to complete it as soon as possible for they too would have problems with their supplies if the siege was prolonged for too long.<p>

"Sectors A and B have been completed, Sectors C and D are almost complete and Sector E is midway done.", Max said. "In a week, at most, the trench will have been fully constructed. Once this is done, no supplies will get to the Republic base."

"We need to step up the construction. The seventh fleet of Admiral Nick will resupply us in about fifteen days. But we won't be getting any other supplies any time soon. So we will be able to last more than them enemy only if we prevent them from being supplied. As such, it is vital to finish the construction project as soon as possible. For if we fail to prevent them from being supplied, our supplies will end before theirs do. And if this happens, we will be forced to end the siege."

"The soldiers work all day long. They are at breaking point. We cannot push them any further."

"We must if we are to emerge victorious!", Char retorted. "Victory is all that matters. I cannot be defeated. A defeat right now will mean the end of my career."

Max sighed. "I understand, sir. I will try to step up the construction."

"Good. Now go and-"

Suddenly, an officer rushed into the tent and said, "Sir, the enemy had launched a raid in Sector D. The soldiers have attempted to take cover in the trench, but since it is incomplete the enemy had no difficulty overrunning our positions."

Char clenched his teeth. "Damn!", he shouted. "Send lieutenant Jerriid to push back the enemy!"

* * *

><p>The few remaining Stormtroopers in Sector D were fighting tooth and nail to keep their position. As the Resistance soldiers were about to finish them off and set up their bombs, Jerriid and his men

arrived. The Stormtroopers fired with machine guns and blasters at the enemy, causing many casualties.<p>

"I and twenty men will delay them!", Finn shouted. "The rest of you set up the explosives."

Finn and twenty of his men fired with their blasters at the enemy troops while the rest of his men began setting up the bombs. But a stray blaster fire hit one of the bombs causing a huge explosion. The sound of the explosion was deafening and the smoke could be seen from miles away. Almost all of Finn's men died in the explosion.

"Retreat!", Finn ordered. "They are too many of them. We cannot hope to defeat them!"

Under heavy fire, Finn and his men managed to escape back to the base. Their mission was a close failure.

Next morning, as soon as Char woke up, Max entered his tent. "Sir, I am glad to report to you that the explosion caused only minor damage to the construction site. Thankfully, one of their bombs exploded before they could set up all of their bombs. They have also taken many casualties, so it is unlikely that they will try it again. I have done my best to motivate the troops to work harder."

Char smiled. "Good. Everything goes as planned."

In less than a week, the trench was completed. The entire base was surrounded by the First Order forces and cut off. The anti-aircraft guns installed at strategic positions made sure that supplies could not be brought by air either.

Day and night, the First Order artillery would fire at the Republic base while the infantry would hold back and be on the defensive. This situation would last for over two months.

* * *

><p>Finn knocked the door to General Andrew's office.<p>

"Come in!", the elderly General said.

"Sir, why have you called me?"

"I've got a message from Admiral Ozel. He says that he cannot supply us neither by air nor by land as the fortifications of the enemy have cut us off from land and their anti-aircraft guns have already shot down five of his supply vessels and he does not want to waste any more supplies and ships on us. He wants us to fight on to the bitter end. "

Finn's heart beat fast. He was afraid. He knew that defeat was imminent. But despite his personal feelings, he had order from General Leia which he could not disobey. "I will fight alongside you. We shall bleed them!"

Andrew laughed. "It's good to know that but you will not need to do so. I will disobey orders and will surrender. Our supplies are diminishing and without food and fuel, we cannot do much. Since

defeat is irreversible, it will be futile to fight on. While I am not afraid of death, I do not want to waste the lives of my men in a pointless fight. My only term for surrender will be that you and your remaining men will be allowed to leave the planet."

"Butâ€| "

"There is no point in persuading me to change my decision. I am ready to face the consequences of my action. I am an experienced General and I know when a battle is lost."

* * *

><p>A messenger holding a white flag in his hands was sent to the fortifications of the First Order. Two Stormtroopers led him to Char. The messenger fell on his knees before Char and said, "I have a letter from General Andrew. He wants to surrender the fort to you and here are his terms."<p>

Char read the letter. The General's only term was to allow Finn and his men to leave Hoth. Char could not care less about Finn and so he immediately agreed to Andrew's request. "I accept his terms. Inform the General of my decision."

Char had managed to take over the Republic's base in Hoth and achieve an unexpected victory despite having less troops and facing a formidable fortress. The next day, General Hux spoke to him through a hologram projection.

"Admiral Char, congratulations. You have managed to take over Hoth and completed successfully your mission. As such, I shall promote you and place you in command of the 18th Fleet. Your next mission will be to join up with the 7th and 9th Fleets for an attack against the Republic's shipyards at Foerost."

"Thank you. I will not disappoint, sir."

End
file.